CLAIMS

1. The use of a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site for providing latency to a pharmaceutically active agent.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

3. The use as claimed in any claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

4. The use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the pharmaceutically active is a growth factor, differentiation factor, cytokine, chemokine, trophic factor, cytokine inhibitor, cytokine receptor, free-radical scavenging enzyme, peptide mimetic, protease inhibitor, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase sub class, inhibitor of serine protease, chemotherapeutic agent or peptide nucleic acid sequence.

5. The use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the fusion protein is in association with latent TGFβ binding protein.

6. A nucleic acid construct comprising a first nucleic acid sequence encoding a pharmaceutically active agent, a second nucleic acid sequence encoding a LAP, wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a proteolytic cleavage site is provided between the first and second nucleic acid sequences.

7. A nucleic acid construct as claimed 6 wherein the first nucleic acid sequence encodes the protein INFβ.

8. A nucleic acid construct as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 which is in the form of a vector.

9. A cell comprising a nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8.

10. A method of treatment of a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8.

11. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 10 wherein the treatment is the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.

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12. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the treatment is gene therapy.

13. A nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 for use in medicine.

14. Use of a nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8.

16. A fusion protein comprising a LAP and a proteolytic cleavage site wherein the fusion protein is associated with a pharmaceutically active agent.

17. A process for preparing a fusion protein as claimed in claim 16 comprising production of the fusion protein recombinantly by expression in a host cell, purification of the expressed fusion protein and association of the pharmaceutically active agent to the purified fusion protein by means of chemical cross linking.

18. A method of treatment of a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein as claimed in claim 16.

19. A fusion protein as claimed in claim 16 for use in medicine.

20. Use of a fusion protein as claimed in claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a fusion protein as claimed in claim 16.

22. A method of providing latency to a pharmaceutically active agent comprising associating a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with said pharmaceutically active agent.

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23. A kit of parts comprising a nucleic acid construct as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8, or a fusion protein as claimed in claim 16, and an administration vehicle.

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